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THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rec'd  
Mar. 9

American Embassy

No. 169

Montevideo, Uruguay, March 4, 1948

ACTION  
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Subject: Meeting of Presidents of Uruguay and Argentina

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The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's airgram no. 84 of February 26 and its telegram no. 56 of February 28, and previous reports, I have the honor to report further on the meeting of President Luis BATLLE BERRES of Uruguay and President Juan Domingo PERON of Argentina which took place on February 27. In the morning the meeting was held on a yacht of the Argentine government and in the afternoon on a vessel of the Uruguayan government. The two vessels and escorting craft were anchored in the Uruguay River off Playa de La Agraciada, a few miles upstream from Carmelo.

According to comments made subsequently by the President of Uruguay and others who accompanied him, the meeting was notable for its atmosphere of cordiality. Comments have also referred to the frankness, deference and courtesy displayed by both groups.

At the conclusion of their meeting the Presidents issued a joint statement in the first part of which they bound themselves to enter into a treaty of arbitration for the settlement of any dispute between the two countries. (Copy of the statement with translation is enclosed.) Sections of this part of the statement follow the wording of the preamble to the recent Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance signed at Rio de Janeiro on September 2, 1947. (An arbitration treaty between Uruguay and Argentina, ratifications of which were exchanged on January 16, 1902 is still in effect, but that treaty excepts cases involving precepts of the Constitution of either country.)

The willingness of Argentina to submit any dispute with Uruguay to arbitration is of special interest in the light of the Argentine views described in Buenos

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Despatch no. 169, March 4, 1948, Montevideo.

Aires' despatch no. 118 of February 16, 1948.

The statement goes on to mention the following six points.

1. Appointment of commissions to study the question of the boundary in the Uruguay River; and acceleration of studies and work on Salto Grande hydroelectric project.

2. Creation of a commission to keep commercial relations up to date.

3. Elimination of obstacles to tourist travel, and solution of the balance of payments question.

4. Designation of a commission to study the Uruguayan - Argentine aviation problem.

5. Authorization for ferries at three places on the Uruguay River, between towns of the two countries.

6. Permission for aircraft of one country to fly over the other in the anti-locust campaign.

When the statement was handed to newspaper correspondents who were present, both Presidents made brief addresses. The part of President Batlle Berres' address that has been most emphasized by the local press follows in translation:

"If it is a truth that unity among nations is a necessity, it is even more true that unity between Argentina and Uruguay is not only a necessity but the fulfillment of the desires of the peoples of each country."

The emphasized part of President Perón's address has been:

"Regarding the maintenance of good international relations, the days of lengthy speeches and big banquets in Embassies have passed. Men of today have to be more realistic. Peoples like individuals do not have permanent enemies or permanent friends. Those who have opposite interests sooner or later find their friendship turned into enmity; those who are enemies but have parallel interests, sooner or later become friends".

While the announced subjects of the Presidents' discussion could have been handled through other channels,

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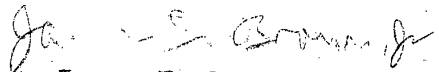
Despatch no. 169, March 4, 1948, Montevideo

it is possible that the meeting may facilitate subsequent action on the points discussed, which are of genuine importance in Argentine-Uruguay relations. There has, of course, been speculation as to what matters the Presidents may have treated in addition to those announced. Obviously the meeting afforded an opportunity for developing closer personal relations between the two Presidents, and apparently it had that result. (For example President Batlle Berres sent a military aide to Buenos Aires on March 2 to express his personal concern regarding President Perón's current illness.) It may also tend to lessen somewhat the dislike felt by a number of Uruguayans toward the Perón government; that remains to be seen.

A list, as published here, of the Argentine delegation attending the meeting is enclosed. The names of the Uruguayan delegates were given in the Embassy's airgram no. 84 of February 26.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:



James E. Brown, Jr.  
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Clipping from El Día of February 28, with translation of the part containing the Presidents' joint statement.
2. Translation from El Día of February 27, listing Argentine delegation.

Copies to American Embassies at  
Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.

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March 4, 1948, from American Embassy,  
Montevideo, entitled "Meeting of  
Presidents of Uruguay and Argentina"

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(TRANSLATION)

From El Día of February 28, 1948

The joint statement of the Presidents is set forth in the following terms:

The governments of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Republic of the Argentine Nation, interpreting the feeling of the peoples that they represent, fulfilling their traditional international conduct, declare:

That the interests of the American republics are essentially linked to their common aims and democratic ideals and to permanent cooperation to accomplish the principles and effective purposes of a policy of peace; they affirm as a manifest truth that juridical organization is a necessary prerequisite of security and peace, and that peace is founded on justice and moral order and, consequently, on the international recognition and protection of human rights and freedoms, on the indispensable well-being of the people, and on the effectiveness of democracy for the international realization of justice and security; it is the purpose of both governors, and they obligate themselves, to agree to a treaty of full (amplio) arbitration, as the means of solving any difference that may arise between both countries and they declare before America that a like purpose animates them with reference to the remaining American countries, and they will do whatever may be in their power in order that arbitration or other pacific means may constitute the juridical order which governs the life of the American community, as the means of firmly maintaining and consolidating peace in America; and for the good and solidity of peace they will struggle to consolidate democracy in order that it may be a truth in a free and strong America, for which the heroes of independence fought, heroes whose steps they endeavor to honor and to follow carefully, respecting the liberty of men and their rights and struggling for the aggrandizement of their respective countries in the desire to contribute thus to forming a happy and prosperous America.

They declare likewise they have agreed to the decisions which are stated below regarding the following problems:

1) Uruguay River: a) To designate commissions for studies concerning the Uruguay River - boundary zones - to work jointly; b) Hydroelectric development of Salto Grande. To accelerate the procedure of study and construction.

2) Commercial Agreement: a) Constitution of a permanent commission presided over by the persons whom each

President

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may designate, to keep up to date commercial relations;  
b) To convoke them in due course as required.

3) Tourism: a) Suppression of any obstacle by both parties; b) Submit the study and solution of the balance of payments to the Central Bank of the Argentine Republic and to the Bank of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

4) Air Navigation: To designate a commission for the complete study of the problem of Uruguayan-Argentine air navigation.

5) Service of ferries on the Uruguay River: To authorize the services mentioned between a) Concordia-Salto; b) Paysandú-Colón; c) Fray Bentos-Gualeguaychú.

6) Anti-locust campaign: Free operation of aircraft attacking the swarms of locusts, without distinction, on both frontiers, by Argentine-Uruguayan airplanes.

Signed: on the vessel "Tecuara" on February 27, 1948. -

Luis Batlle Berres - Juan D. Perón

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March 4, 1948, from American Embassy,  
Montevideo, entitled "Meeting of  
Presidents of Uruguay and Argentina"

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From El Día of February 27, 1948.

The Information Service of the Presidency of the Republic told us that the Argentine delegation that will attend the meeting today between Presidents Batlle Berres and Perón will be composed of the following:

President of the Argentine Republic,  
General Juan D. Perón  
Sra. María Eva Duarte de Perón  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship,  
Dr. Juan A. Bramuglia  
President of the Argentine Economic Council,  
Sr. Miguel Miranda  
President of the Argentine Central Bank,  
Sr. Orlando Maroglio  
Chief of the Military Household of the  
Presidency of the Nation,  
Lt. Colonel Juan F. Castro  
Chief of the Information Division of the  
Presidency of the Nation,  
Commander Guillermo Silveira Casares

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